

Next Week Sermon

Perils of Materialism

James 5:1-6:

PREACHER

John Lee

5 November, 2023

Discipleship from the Inside Out

Matthew 5:13-16

PREACHER

Jay Howard

12 November, 2023

The Nature of True Wisdom

James 3:13-4:10

PREACHER

Dr. Peter Ng

An hourglass with a wooden frame stands on a wooden base. The top bulb is partially filled with golden sand, and a stream of sand is falling into the bottom bulb. The background is dark, and the foreground shows a sandy surface with some small pebbles. The word "Patience" is written in white, serif font across the center of the hourglass.

Patience

James 5:7-12

James 5:7-12

- Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.
- Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.
- Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.
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- But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.



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DuitNow



NOW

The Culture of Now



- Technology
 - Supports our impatience
 - Conforms to our impatience
 - Culture undermines the quality of patience
 - We desire something, and we desire it **now**
- 

Why is impatience bad?



- Anything worthwhile in life
 - Relationships
 - Marriage
 - Parenting
- Requires **Patience**





Unsurpassed Resources of the Christian

Where do we find and cultivate
patience?





Overview

- **Definition of Patience**
- **Different Kinds of Patience**
- **Developing Patience**

Definition of Patience

- What is Patience?
- 2 illustrations of Patience
 - General – Farmer
 - Specific – Job and the Prophets
- 2 Greek words for patience
 - Both found in this passage

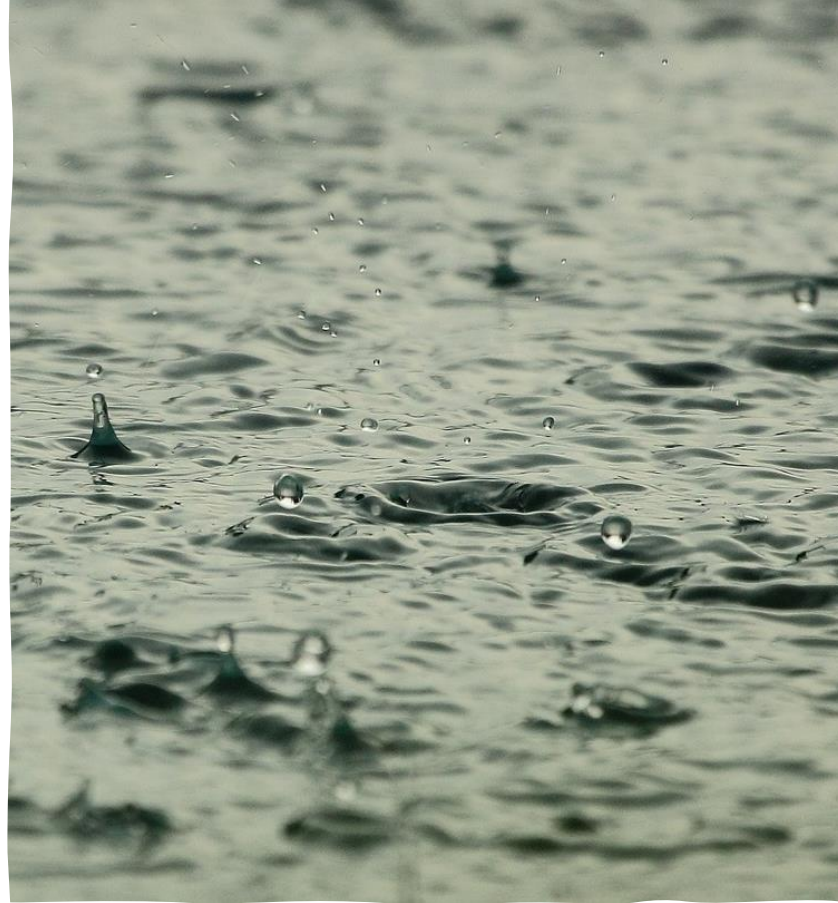


James 5:7-12



Farmer

- Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.
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Farmer

- Where James is writing – dry region
- 2 narrow seasons in which rain will come
- Early and latter rains – autumn and spring rains

The Patience of the Farmer

- Ploughed and prayed
- Now waits for God to do His work

- Does not just wait for rain, but waits for the fruit – end result
- The harvest is the end of the rain and the reaping of the fruit



Job

- Lost his wealth
- Lost his health
- Lost his family

- He persevered with patience



James 5:7-12

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Patient

- μακροθυμέω
- makrothumeō
- *mak-roth-oo-meh'-o*
- From the same as G3116; to *be long spirited*, that is, (objectively) *forbearing* or (subjectively) *patient*: - bear (suffer) long, be longsuffering, have (long) patience, be patient, patiently endure.
- Long suffering



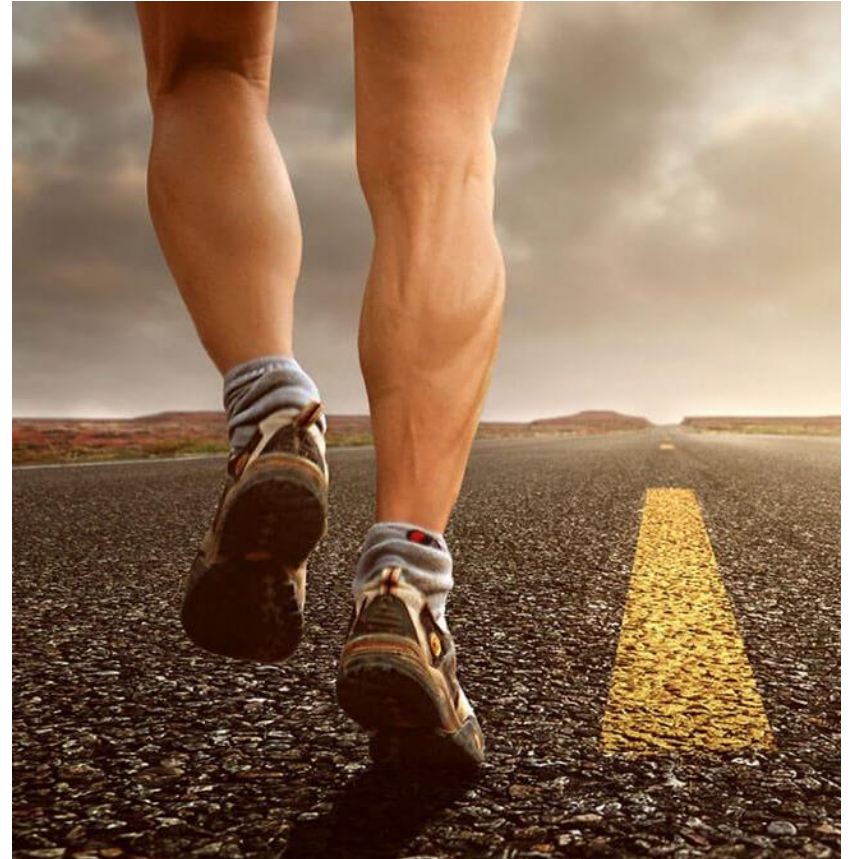
2 Peter 3:9

- The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is **longsuffering** to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.



Patience

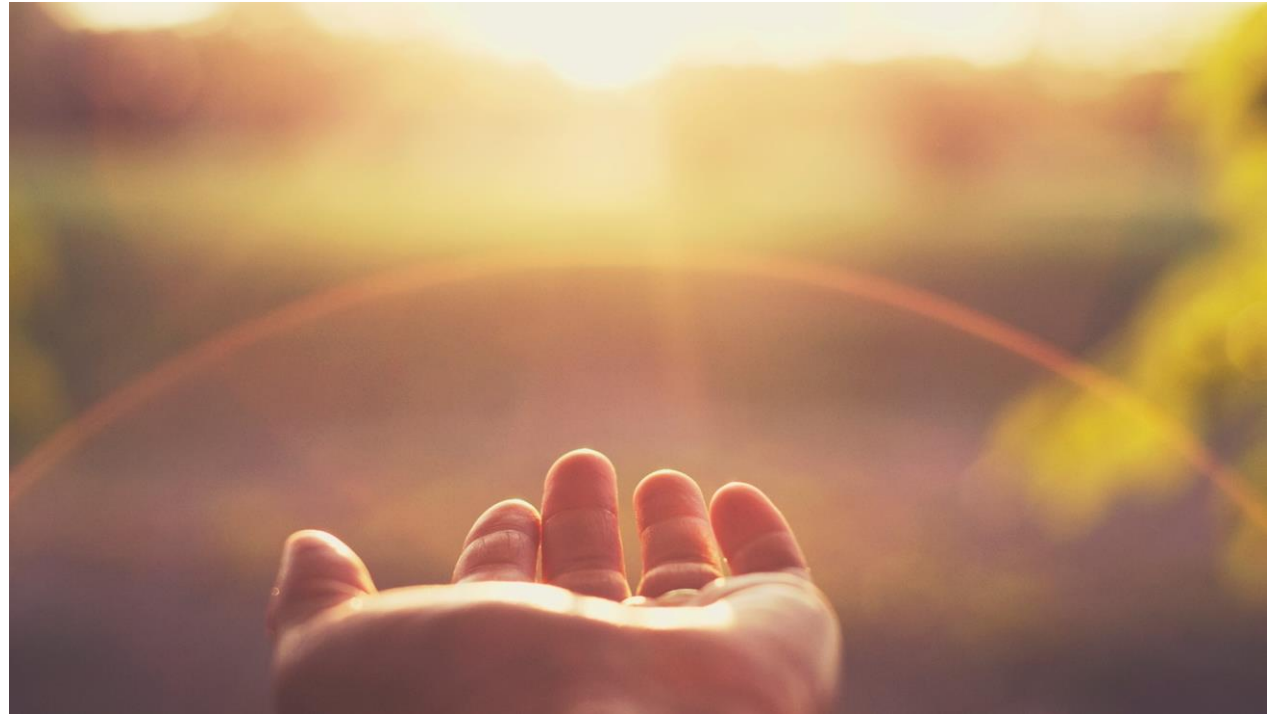
- ὑπομονή
- hypomonē
- *hoop-om-on-ay'*
- From G5278; cheerful (or hopeful) *endurance, constancy*: - enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).
- Perseverance / Endurance / Hyper Stand



Peace + Patience

- Galatians 5:22-23
- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

- Patience comes from an inner conviction that **no matter what the circumstances, God is compassionate and merciful**



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Patience

Patience is

- **graciousness** and **steadiness**
- in the face of **delayed gratification**







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The Opposite of Patience?

- Irritability
- Self pity
- Grumbling
- Complaining
- Calling people out
- Giving up
- Melting down





Overview

- Definition of Patience
- **Different Kinds of Patience**
- Developing Patience



Different Kinds of Patience

Different Kinds of Patience

Patience with Life

Patience with People

Patience in Suffering

Patience with God



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Patience with Life

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Patience with Life

- Illustration of the Farmer
- Consumer capitalism does everything to work with our impatience
- Get it faster, get it now

WHAT DO WE WANT?



WHEN DO WE WANT IT?



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Nothing really worthwhile is instant

- No relationship worthwhile is instant
 - There are instant relationships – networking
 - Brief conversation – glad to know you and you know me
- Relationship that:
 - Sustains you
 - Changes you
- Takes enormous amounts of time
 - Applies horizontally and vertically



Nothing really worthwhile is instant

- No skill worthwhile is instant
 - Nobody wins a medal in an instant
 - Months to years of hard work
- No major accomplishment is instant



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DANIEL KAHNEMAN

Author of *Thinking, Fast and Slow*

THE MARSHMALLOW TEST

Understanding self-control and
how to master it



WALTER MISCHEL



MARSHMALLOW TEST

A FAMOUS STANFORD EXPERIMENT IN WHICH CHILDREN WERE GIVEN THE CHOICE BETWEEN ONE TREAT IMMEDIATELY OR TWO TREATS IF THEY WAITED. THE CHILDREN WHO WAITED, DEMONSTRATING 'DELAYED GRATIFICATION', WERE SHOWN TO HAVE INDICATORS OF SUCCESSFUL BEHAVIOR IN OTHER AREAS OF LIFE.



Everything that really matters takes patience

- We have desires
 - We want those desires to be gratified now
- Our society encourages us to:
 - Not wait
 - Not pull back
 - Not restrain
 - Demand
- All things that matter takes patience

Different Kinds of Patience

Patience with Life

Patience with People

Patience in Suffering

Patience with God





Patience with People

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Patience with People

- If someone treats us unjustly
- If someone has sinned against us

- Our culture says that we should:
 - Assert our rights
 - Speak up
 - Not let injustice go
 - Not let people sin against you

Love Covers a Multitude of Sins

LOVE
COVERS A
MULTITUDE
OF SINS.

1 PETER 4:8

- Proverbs 10:12 - Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.
- 1 Peter 4:8 (NKJV) - And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "LOVE WILL COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS."
- Proverbs 19:11 - The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

Love Covers a Multitude of Sins

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1 PETER 4:8

- Personal slights, snide or ignorant remarks, minor annoyances, insensitivities, people letting us down
- If we call them out every time
 - Community is going to break down
 - We will have nobody
 - And we are going to be lonely
- Because everyone else is just like you
 - Same fears
 - Same problems
 - Same insecurities
 - Same distractions

Love Covers a Multitude of Sins

LOVE
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1 PETER 4:8

- A person who knows how to cover a multitude of sins
 - Learn to be patient
 - Learn the discipline
 - Not grumbling inside/outside
 - Not calling them out
 - Learn not to dwell on things when people have wronged you
- Emphathise
 - What about me?
 - Who knows what that person is going through?

Why does God put us in a church?



- Hebrews 10:25 - “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together ...”

Note: Love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8)

What it means and what it does not mean

- To “cover” sin is to forgive it - forgiveness is associated with love
- Love covering sin is not sweeping matters under the rug.
 - Some have appealed to the forgiving nature of love in their attempt to hide indiscretion.
 - For example, rather than report child abuse, a church might cover it up. This is not what true love does.
 - Love protects by helping both the victim and the offender, and it also strives to prevent further offenses.
- Love covering sin is not disregarding our own emotions or ignore our personal boundaries.
 - We cannot “cover” sin by denying that it hurt us.
 - We cover sin by acknowledging it and then extending the forgiveness God has given us to others.



LOVE

COVERS A
MULTITUDE
OF SINS.

1 PETER 4:8

ITY.COM

- Unless we know how love covers a multitude of sins
- Unless we know how to be patient with people
 - Society is going to break down
 - And we are going to be lonely



Different Kinds of Patience

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Patience in Suffering

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Patience in Suffering

- Not just slights, inconveniences, unhappy because things aren't going the way you want them to
- Suffering
 - Real losses
 - Real griefs
- 2 examples – suffered and persevered in suffering
 - The Prophets
 - Job

What Patience in Suffering is Not

- Does not mean not letting our suffering get to us
- Does not mean we are without emotion





Lamentations 1:12

- Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any **sorrow** like unto my **sorrow**, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.

Jeremiah 20:7-9

- O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.
- For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily.
- Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

Job 2:13

- So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his **grief** was very great.
- Job 3:3 - Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived.



What Patience in Suffering is

- Job is screaming, exploding, and upset
- Jeremiah is lamenting



What Patience in Suffering is

- Job is screaming, exploding, and upset
- Jeremiah is lamenting

- But Jeremiah never stopped preaching
- And Job never stopped praying



What Patience in Suffering is

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- And Job never stopped praying

- Patience in suffering means we do not get self absorbed



What Patience in Suffering is

- Suffering wins when we go into ourselves (self-absorbed):
 - “I cannot pray”
 - “I cannot help people”
 - “I cannot get out”
 - “I cannot do these things”



What Patience in Suffering is

- Suffering wins when we go into ourselves (self-absorbed):
 - “I cannot pray”
 - “I cannot help people”
 - “I cannot get out”
 - “I cannot do these things”
- Does not mean incredible inner poise
- Does mean that we do not let suffering turn us into self absorbed beings – that it’s all about me



A hand is shown in the lower-left corner, palm up, reaching towards the right. The background is a bright, golden-yellow sky with soft, out-of-focus clouds. The overall mood is one of hope and reaching out.

What Patience in Suffering is

- Patience means we continue to love God and talk to Him
- Patience means we continue to love others and talk to them
- That is what it means to “hyper-stand”/endure/persevere

Different Kinds of Patience

Patience with Life

Patience with People

Patience in Suffering

Patience with God





Patience with God

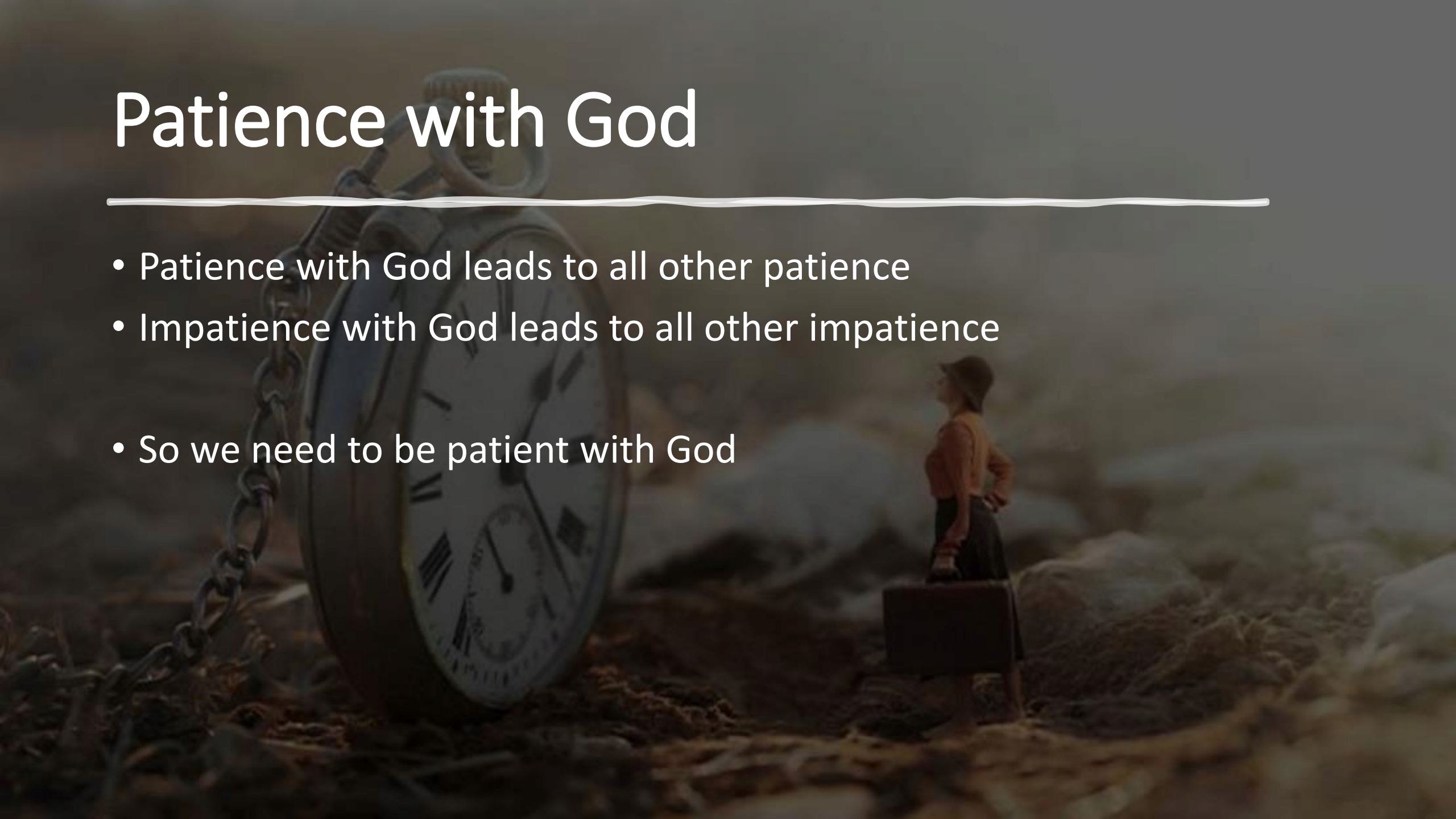
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Patience with God

- Patience with God leads to all other patience
- Impatience with God leads to all other impatience

- So we need to be patient with God



James 5:7-12

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Coming of the Lord

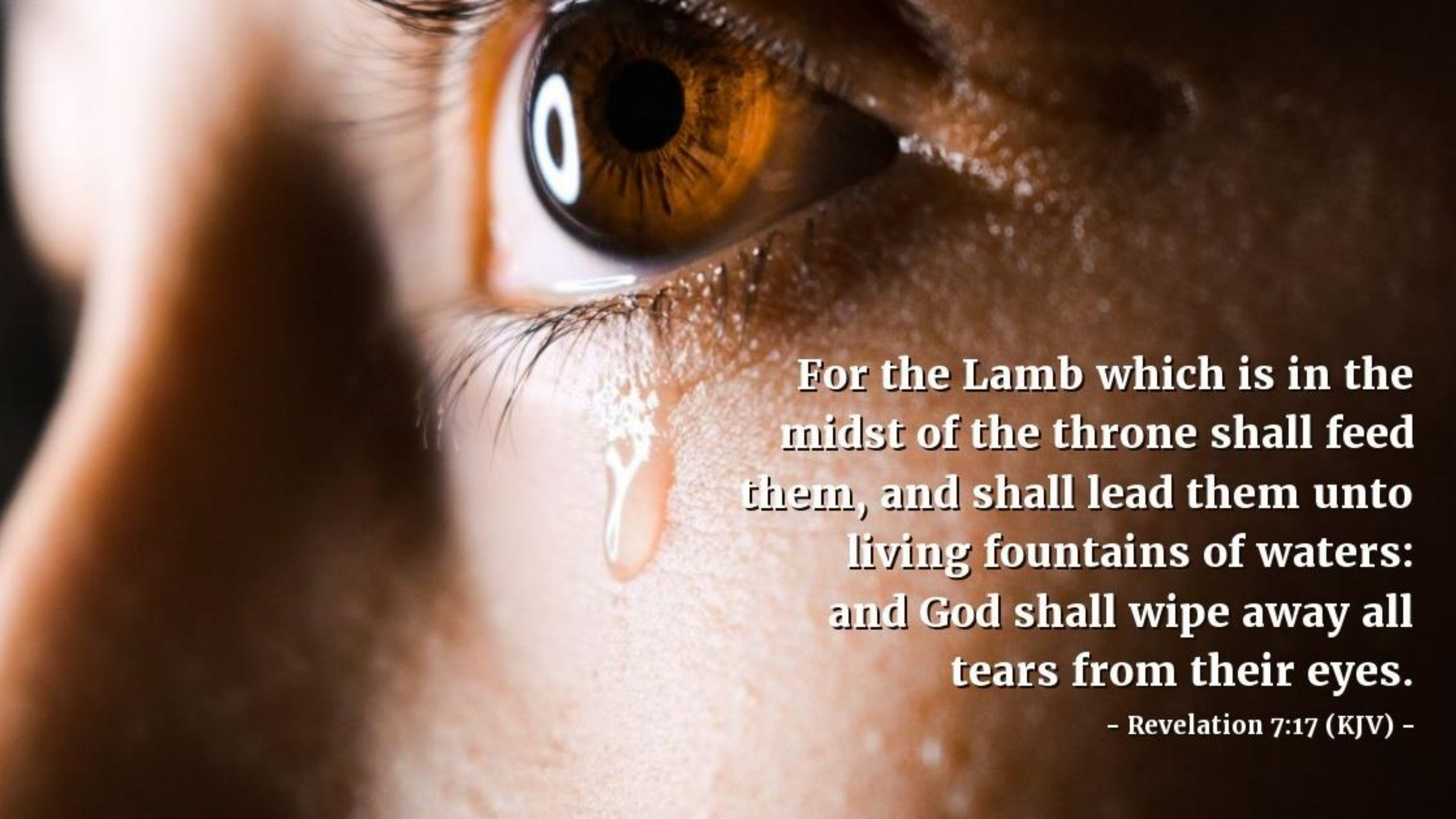
- Mentioned twice – v. 7, 8
- “judge standeth before the door” – v. 9

- παρουσία
- parousia
- *par-oo-see'-ah*
- From the present participle of [G3918](#); a *being near*, that is, *advent* (often, *return*; specifically of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) *physical aspect*: - coming, presence.



Matthew 26:64

"... Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a person's eye. The eye is brown and looking slightly to the right. A single, clear tear is falling from the lower eyelid, creating a small puddle on the skin below. The skin is fair and has a natural texture. The background is dark and out of focus.

**For the Lamb which is in the
midst of the throne shall feed
them, and shall lead them unto
living fountains of waters:
and God shall wipe away all
tears from their eyes.**

- Revelation 7:17 (KJV) -

Someday, God will make everything right

Someday, God will make everything right

- Right now, we have a disease, someday He will heal all diseases



Someday, God will make everything right

- Right now, we have a disease, someday He will heal all diseases
- Right now, there is injustice, someday He will make it all right



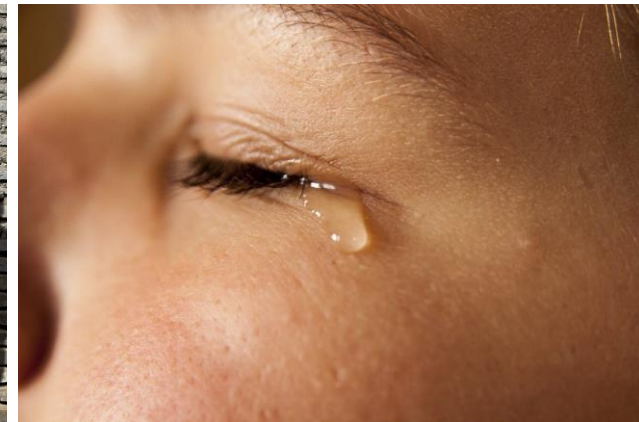
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- Right now, we have a disease, someday He will heal all diseases
- Right now, there is injustice, someday He will make it all right
- Right now, someone is mistreating you, someday He will right all wrongs



Someday, God will make everything right

- Right now, we have a disease, someday He will heal all diseases
- Right now, there is injustice, someday He will make it all right
- Right now, someone is mistreating you, someday He will right all wrongs
- Right now, something bad happened, someday He will wipe away all tears



But He is not doing it now

- I know God could do all that and stop all that by why isn't He?



But He is not doing it now

- I know God could do all that and stop all that by why isn't He?
- Do we get impatient with the Lord?
- Do we say to the Lord, I know what has to happen and You're not doing it?



But He is not doing it now

- I know God could do all that and stop all that by why isn't He?
- Do we get impatient with the Lord?
- Do we say to the Lord, I know what has to happen and You're not doing it?
- Impatience with God leads to all other impatience
- Patience with God leads to all other patience



A wide-angle photograph of a dirt road that splits into two paths leading into a lush green field. The field is filled with tall grass and numerous trees, some with bare branches and others with fresh green leaves. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Every day/hour, we will face challenges

I trust my insight
My understanding
of what needs to
happen

I trust God
Be patient with
what He is doing
right now



Abraham and Sarah



Overview

- Definition of Patience
- Different Kinds of Patience
- **Developing Patience**

Developing Patience

Practices in the Present

Remembering the Past

Looking to the Future



Developing Patience

Practices in the Present

Remembering the Past

Looking to the Future



A green rectangular sign with rounded corners and a white border of small circular lights. The sign is mounted on two wooden posts and is tilted upwards. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text 'Here & Now' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the sign.

Here & Now

Practices in the Present



Here & Now

Practices in the Present

- Process your Disappointments through Prayer
- Be Humble
- See Trials as opportunities to Grow

Process your Disappointments through Prayer

- Process your disappointments through prayer
 - V. 11 – Heard of Job’s patience/perseverance
 - Job – cast as a good example
 - But a cursory reading suggests otherwise
 - At the end, the Lord vindicates Him
 - Job never stopped praying



Process your Disappointments through Prayer

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 - V. 11 – Heard of Job’s patience/perseverance
 - Job – cast as a good example
 - But a cursory reading suggests otherwise
 - At the end, the Lord vindicates Him
 - Job never stopped praying
- Job never stopped talking to God
 - Complains – but complains to God
 - Self pity – but takes it to God
 - Doubts – but brings it to God



Process your Disappointments through Prayer

- If we keep praying, it is the foundation for everything else
 - Regardless of how we feel



Process your Disappointments through Prayer

- If we keep praying, it is the foundation for everything else
 - Regardless of how we feel
- Job prayed
 - In his sorrow
 - In his grief



Process your Disappointments through Prayer

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 - Regardless of how we feel
- Job prayed
 - In his sorrow
 - In his grief
- 1 Thess. 5:17 – “Pray without ceasing.”



Be Humble

- James 4:13-15
 - Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:
 - Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
 - For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.



Be Humble

- James 4:13-15
 - Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:
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 - For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.
- Anxiety, impatience, anger
 - Comes from an assumed omniscience



Be Humble

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 - For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.
- We think we know what needs to happen
 - Be **humble** to say I don't know
 - Be **humble** to say I don't have the vantage point





See Trials as opportunities to Grow

- James 1:2-3
- Romans 5:3 – “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;”
- Rejoice in trials/tribulations
 - Not rejoice for trials/tribulations



See Trials as opportunities to Grow

- James 1:2-3
- Romans 5:3 – “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;”
- Rejoice in trials/tribulations
 - Not rejoice for trials/tribulations
- When trouble hits – it is an opportunity to develop patience
- We will never be patient if we never have problems



See Trials as opportunities to Grow

- Rejoice in the problems
 - Drive me into the love of God
 - So that we can be wiser
 - So that we can be deeper
 - So that we can be more able to help others
- 2 Cor. 1:3-4 - Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Job 23:8-10

- Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:
- On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him:
- But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.



Developing Patience

Practices in the Present

Remembering the Past

Looking to the Future





Remembering the Past

Hebrews 12:1-2

- Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
- Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.



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- Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured** the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Hebrews 12:3

- For consider him that **endured** such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.



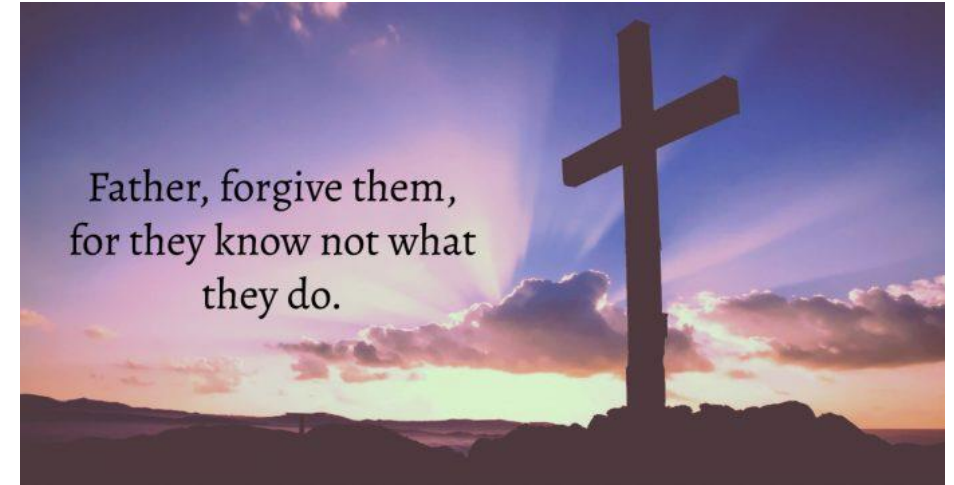
Remembering the Past

- His Patience for you
- Hebrews 12:1-2
 - Endured – “hyper-stand”
 - He knew what it costs to save you but He went for you
- He continued to stand
 - When they beat Him with their fists (Mark 14, Matthew 26)
 - Jeered and mocked Him



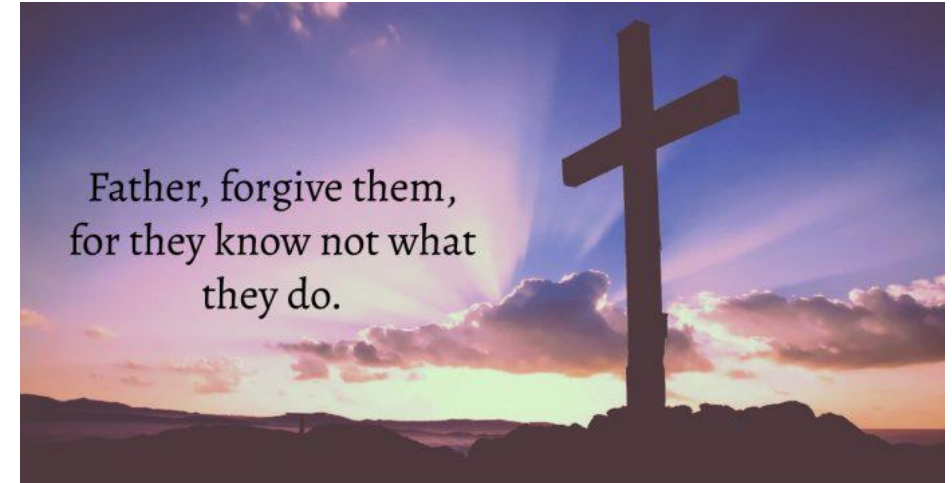
Remembering the Past

- He was patient with People
 - Did not explode
 - “Do you know who I am?”
 - “Father forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34)
 - His love covered all their (and our) sins



Remembering the Past

- He was patient with People
 - Did not explode
 - “Do you know who I am?”
 - “Father forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34)
 - His love covered all their (and our) sins
- He was patient with God
 - “Let this cup pass from Me, nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26:39)
 - He saved us through His infinitely costly patience
 - Now that our sins are forgive, the Father can be infinitely patient towards us forever



Remembering the Past

- Look at Christ being patient for you which cost Him His life
- Why wouldn't we be patient when it would turn us to gold?

Developing Patience

Practices in the Present

Remembering the Past

Looking to the Future





Look to the Future



Look to the Future

- He is coming back
- He is going to put all things right
- All our hopes will eventually be fulfilled

Revelation 21:4

And God shall wipe away all tears from
their eyes; and there shall be no more
death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither
shall there be any more pain:
for the former things are passed away.



Overview

- **Definition of Patience**
- **Different Kinds of Patience**
 - Patience with Life
 - Patience with People
 - Patience in Suffering
 - Patience with God
- **Developing Patience**
 - Practices in the Present
 - Remembering the Past
 - Looking to the Future

Patience

Patience is

- **graciousness** and **steadiness**
- in the face of **delayed gratification**

A sunset over a body of water, with a semi-transparent text box in the center. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow and a shimmering reflection on the water. The water is dark blue, and the foreground shows the silhouettes of trees and a hillside.

WAIT ON THE LORD: BE OF
GOOD COURAGE, AND HE SHALL
STRENGTHEN THINE HEART:
WAIT, I SAY, ON THE LORD.

PSALMS 27:14 KJV

An hourglass with a wooden frame stands on a wooden base. The top bulb is partially filled with golden sand, and a stream of sand is falling into the bottom bulb. The background is dark, and the foreground is a sandy surface with some small pebbles. The word "Patience" is written in white, serif font across the center of the hourglass.

Patience

James 5:7-12